

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:DGWAGNER:ZC
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TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 149043

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PN, PQ, TBIO

SUBJECT: VESICULAR DISEASE LABORATORY

REFERENCES: PANAMA 3614 OF 1976; PANAMA 5547 OF 1976

1. REQUEST EMBASSY CONSULT INFORMALLY WITH THE GOP ABOUT THE VESICULAR DISEASE LABORATORY. PLEASE TELL THE GOP THAT PAHO HAS ASKED THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VESICULAR DISEASE LABORATORY IN THE CANAL ZONE. AS PART OF OUR CONSIDERATION OF THE REQUEST, WE ARE SOLICITING THE VIEWS OF INTERESTED PARTIES AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE PANAMA'S. THE LABORATORY WOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN BUILDING 254 OF THE GORGAS MEMORIAL LABORATORY UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA, AS WELL AS PANAMA. IN ORDER
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TO MINIMIZE THE POSSIBILITY OF HARM TO THE CANAL ZONE AND PANAMA, THE LABORATORY WOULD BE OPERATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARDS OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND WOULD BE MONITORED BY COMPETENT AUTHORITIES. AN AFFIRMATIVE PANAMANIAN RESPONSE WILL BE VERY HELPFUL TO OUR EFFORTS TO AGREE ON A COMMON USG POSITION ABOUT THE LABORATORY.

2. FYI: WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE TERMS OF EXISTING TREATIES REQUIRE US TO OBTAIN PANAMA'S APPROVAL. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT COURTESY AND THE WISH TO BEGIN THIS PROJECT AMICABLY SO THAT ITS TRANSITION UNDER A NEW CANAL TREATY ARRANGEMENT CAN BE AS SMOOTH AS POSSIBLE MAKE THIS DEMARCHE DESIRABLE.

3. AT THIS TIME WE ARE SEEKING ONLY PANAMA'S INFORMAL CONCURRENCE WITH THE LABORATORY. AFTER WE HAVE COMPLETED OUR DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON WITH THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT AND THE ARMY, WE WILL PROBABLY ASK YOU TO SEND A NOTE TO THE PANAMANIAN WHICH CONFIRMS OUR UNDERSTANDINGS. END FYI.

4. PLEASE SEND FORMAL MEMCON OF YOUR DISCUSSION TO ARA/PAN.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

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